

Feb. 7 1944

Mr James Hill
408 W. 1st St.
Lakeland Fla.

Dear James:

Well you still continue to be my problem child, and I certainly do not like the thought of you being in Lakeland with no money and no clothes, but I really do not know what to do. First of all aren't you working? If not I don't know why you did not stay in Newark, or at least come back here where you could have gotten a job. The winter is practically gone now, so there is no use talking about that. We will be leaving for training camp in another month or six weeks, so the problem is what to do about you in the meantime.

Are you sure you will be able to play ball? I wish you would send me your draft card, so I will be sure to know what your class is. It may be you have just been deferred for a few weeks or months. When were you put in 4F last time? Everyone seems to think this should be a good year, and with The Major Leagues talking about taking you boys, I would like to see you get yourself together and make the reputation I know you could if you would only try. You should be able to make enough money in the summer to buy a home in Lakeland for you and your family, so that your wife would be very happy to be with you. You are very young and should be able to play ball long enough to get yourself in a comfortable position. In order to make this kind of money, you will have to be in good shape, and help the ballclub to win, so people will come out to see them play. This is the only way a ballclub can pay big salaries, if they draw big crowds. I know you will be glad to hear, Willie Wells is going to stay in America and play with us this year. I think we will have a pretty good club.

I am putting \$10.00 in here and want you to answer right away, and let me know if you received it. When you tell me what you are doing, and what your plans are I will decide what to do about your finances. Let me hear from you right away.

Very Truly Yours